AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus comprising:

an inter image calculating means for performing inter image calculations to derive differences between two images of a single subject to obtain a difference image that represents the differences between the two images, wherein:

process confirmation data representing whether an image has undergone image processes is attached to each of the two images, and image processing condition data representing image processing conditions are further attached to the images which have undergone image processes; the image processing apparatus further comprising:

a judgment means for judging whether the two images have undergone image processes, based on the process confirmation data attached to each of the two images; and

a correction means for correcting an image which has been judged to have undergone image processes, to correct the image to a state equivalent to its original state prior to the image processes, based on the image processing condition data attached thereto; wherein:

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation employing the corrected image, for the image which has been judged to have undergone image processes.

2. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the image processes include a gradation process.

3. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the image processes include a frequency process.

4. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions of the two images so that structural components of the single subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between the two images which have been positionally aligned.

5. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 2, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions of the two images so that structural components of the single subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between the two images which have been positionally aligned.

6. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 3, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions of the two images so that structural components of the single subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between the two images which have been positionally aligned.

7. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus comprising:

an inter image calculating means for performing inter image calculations to derive differences between two images of a single subject to obtain a difference image that represents the differences between the two images, wherein:

process confirmation data representing whether an image has undergone image processes is attached to each of the two images; the image processing apparatus further comprising:

a judgment means for judging whether the two images have undergone image processes, based on the process confirmation data attached to each of the two images; and

a correction means for correcting an image which has been judged to have undergone image processes, to cause the image to approximate its original state prior to the image processes, based on typical image processing conditions of image processes which have been administered to the image; wherein:

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation employing the corrected image, for the image which has been judged to have undergone image processes.

8. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein:

the image processes include a gradation process.

9. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein:

the image processes include a frequency process.

10. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 7, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions of the two images so that structural components of the single subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between the two images which have been positionally aligned.

11. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 8, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions of the two images so that structural components of the single subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between the two images which have been positionally aligned.

12. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 9, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions of the two images so that structural components of the single subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between the two images which have been positionally aligned.

13. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus comprising:

an inter image calculating means for performing inter image calculations to derive differences between two images of a single subject to obtain a difference image that represents the differences between the two images, wherein:

process confirmation data representing whether an image has undergone image processes is attached to each of the two images, and image processing condition data

representing image processing conditions are further attached to the images which have

undergone image processes; the image processing apparatus further comprising:

        a judgment means for judging whether the two images have undergone image

processes, based on the process confirmation data attached to each of the two images; and

        a correction means for correcting the difference image to be obtained by the inter

image calculation in the case that at least one of the two images have undergone image

processes, to obtain a difference image which would be obtained if the inter image calculation

was performed employing the two images prior to the image processes, based on the image

processing condition data attached thereto.

14. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 13, wherein:

        the image processes include a gradation process.

15. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 13, further

comprising:

        a positional alignment means for aligning the positions of the two images so that

structural components of the single subject substantially match; wherein

        the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between

the two images which have been positionally aligned.

16. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 14, further

comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions of the two images so that structural components of the single subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between the two images which have been positionally aligned.

17. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus comprising:

an inter image calculating means for performing inter image calculations to derive differences between two images of a single subject to obtain a difference image that represents the differences between the two images, wherein:

process confirmation data representing whether an image has undergone image processes is attached to each of the two images, ~~and image processing condition data representing image processing conditions are further attached to the images which have undergone image processes~~; the image processing apparatus further comprising:

a judgment means for judging whether the two images have undergone image processes, based on the process confirmation data attached to each of the two images; and

a correction means for correcting the difference image to be obtained by the inter image calculation in the case that at least one of the two images are judged to have undergone image processes, to obtain a difference image approximating that which would be obtained if the inter image calculation was performed employing the two images prior to the image processes, based on typical image processing conditions of the image processes administered to the at least one of the two images.

18. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein:

the image processes include a gradation process.

19. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 17, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions of the two images so that structural components of the single subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between the two images which have been positionally aligned.

20. (original): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 18, further comprising:

a positional alignment means for aligning the positions of the two images so that structural components of the single subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation means performs the inter image calculation between the two images which have been positionally aligned.

21. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the process confirmation data and image processing conditions are attached to each of the two images as parameters written into a header portion of each of the two images.

22. (previously presented): A method for deriving the differences between two images of a single subject to obtain a difference image that represents the differences between the two images, wherein one or more processors implement the method comprising:

judging whether the two images have undergone image processing, based on process confirmation data attached to each of the two images;

correcting an image which has been judged to have undergone image processing to correct the image to a state equivalent to its original state prior to the image processing, based on image processing condition data attached thereto; and

performing an inter image calculation employing the corrected image for the image which has been judged to have undergone image processing; wherein

the process confirmation data represents whether an image has undergone image processing, and is attached to each of the two images, and the image processing condition data represents image processing conditions, and are further attached to the images which have undergone image processing.

23. (previously presented): A method for deriving the differences between two images as defined in claim 22, wherein:

the image processing include a gradation process.

24. (previously presented): A method for deriving the differences between two images as defined in claim 22, wherein:

the image processing include a frequency process.

25. (previously presented): A method for deriving the differences between two images as defined in claim 22, wherein the performing inter image calculation comprises:

aligning the positions of the two images so that structural components of the

single subject substantially match; wherein

the inter image calculation is performed between the two images which have been

positionally aligned.